

Remarks

Allowed claims 27-42 are pending in the instant application.

Consideration of References Listed in Information Disclosure Statements

In the Notice of Allowability mailed on May 2, 2003, the Examiner has stated that "[t]he information disclosure statement filed 21 November of 2002 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2) ... [i]t has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered. That information disclosure statement indicates that no copies of the references cited therein are being provided because they are present in Application Serial Number 09/557,908." *See*, Notice of Allowability mailed May 2, 2003, at pages 2-3.

Applicants respectfully point out that the information disclosure statement filed November 21, 2002, was indeed accompanied by a form PTO-1449 as well as copies of listed references AM2, AT35, AR36, AS36, AT36, AR37 and AS37. Applicants further point out that the Examiner has previously indicated that these references have been considered on examination of the present application. In support of such assertion, Applicants enclose herewith a copy of form PTO-1449 filed together with the information disclosure statement filed November 21, 2002 and returned to the Applicant with the Examiner's initials indicating consideration of the listed references (Exhibit A).

However, Applicants have noted that no acknowledgement has been received to confirm the Examiner's consideration of references AA-CE, as disclosed in the Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application on March 7, 2003. Accordingly, Applicants file herewith a Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement together with form PTO-SB-08 and copies of listed references AA-

CE for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner confirm the consideration of these references and provide appropriate notification to that effect.

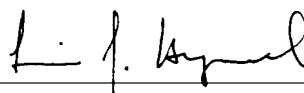
Applicants further request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned prior to issuing a Notice of Allowance or other Office Action should any problems remain with respect to the consideration of the enclosed references.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the present remarks be entered and made of record in the present application. The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If a fee is required in connection with this paper, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-3425 for the appropriate amount.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 22, 2003



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Enclosures
KKH/LJH/BM/lcc